

67056-002  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Russell Vernon Hughes  
Serial No.: 10/048,206  
Filed: May 7, 2002  
Group Art Unit: 3742  
Examiner: Van, Quang T.  
Title: WELDING APPARATUS AND METHOD  
**RESPONSE**

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 7, 2004. Claim 49-67 and 69-84 are pending in this application. Claims 82-84 have been added, claims 49-51, 53, 55-59, 63, 64, 67, 70 and 72-81 have been amended, and claim 68 has been cancelled. Please amend the application as follows.